

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this reply, claims 22-35 and 42-65 are pending in the application. In this Response and Amendment, claims 22 and 35 are amended, and claims 42-65 are added. Please note that claims are presented in this Response and Amendment relative to the last entered Response and Amendment (i.e., the Response and Amendment entered May 8, 2006).

Please also note and record the change of Attorney Docket Number in this matter to: 125708-00115. A Power of Attorney with Revocation will be shortly filed appointing Blank Rome LLP, One Logan Square, 130 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, having customer number 64574.

In the Final Office Action dated July 26, 2006, the Examiner rejects claims 22-30 and 33-35 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Ash, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,953); and rejects claims 31 and 32 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Ash, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,953) in view of Melsky, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,15). Although the Examiner does not recite, at the introduction to the 35 USC § 102 section of the Office Action, that claim 26 is rejected as anticipated by Ash, Applicants will assume that claim 26 is rejected as anticipated by Ash due to inclusion of a paragraph referencing claim 26 in the 35 USC § 102 section.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 22-30 and 33-35 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Ash, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,953). Applicants respectfully traverse the claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(e), and contend that United States Patent No. 5,947,953 to Ash, et al., is not prior art against the claimed invention, as the pertinent subject matter relied upon in Ash is not

invention “by another.” Applicants submit herein a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 by Timothy M. Schweikert, a named inventor in the present application and in the cited prior art, Ash (US 5,947,953), establishing that he conceived the subject matter disclosed but not claimed in Ash (US 5,947,953) and relied upon by the Examiner in the 35 USC § 102(e) rejections of claims 22-30 and 33-35 of the present application.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 22-30 and 33-35 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Ash (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,953).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 31 and 32 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Ash, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,953) in view of Melsky, et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,15). Applicants respectfully traverse the claim rejections under 35 USC §103(a), and submit that, since Ash (US 5,947,953) is not prior art against the claimed invention of the present application, the remaining reference, Melsky (U.S. 5,704,15), does not alone disclose, teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 31 and 32 under 35 USC §103(a).

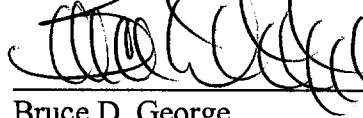
Claims Added by this Response and Amendment

Claims 42-65 are added in this Response and Amendment to more completely cover certain aspects of Applicants’ invention. The recitations of claims 42-64 are patentable over the prior art of record for the reasons detailed above, as the added claims include features similar to those currently and variously presented. Additionally, for this reason the added claims are fully supported throughout the specification and the drawings.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that pending claims 22-35 and 42-65 are allowable, that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that the Examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", written over a horizontal line.

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